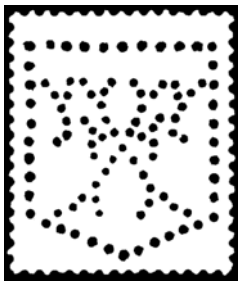
FRANCIS FALKNER
Paddy Murphy

In 1780 the company of Francis Falkner was established to produce and sell Falkner's Dublin Whiskey, a fine Malt Whiskey. Like any other well-known company of the time, Falkners decided that the place to be was Grafton Street, then the hub of the commercial centre of Dublin and in 1854 they opened three shops one at 78 Grafton Street, Grocer, the second at 21 Grafton Street, Grocer, Tea Wine and Spirit Merchant and the third at 31 Richmond Street South, Tea and Wine Merchant. By 1884 the company business had expanded so much that they had to move to a larger premises at 83 Grafton Street and a second shop at 36 Dawson Street, also a very busy street, adjacent to Grafton Street. Their branded stores were at Adelaide Road. Due to overseas demand for the whiskey they also opened a shop in London, at 2 Charing Cross, opposite the Grand Hotel. As can be seen from the advertisement in the 1894 Thoms Directory, Falkner's Dublin Whiskey did very well at the various shows throughout the world, picking up gold medals and diplomas. In 1914 the Grafton Street shop was closed with the Dawson Street shop becoming the only shop remaining in Ireland. In the 1936 Thoms Directory, the entry for 36 Dawson Street, reads John Morgan & Sons Ltd., Tea, Wine & Cigar Merchants, which would suggest that the company of Francis Falkner was either taken over or bought out.

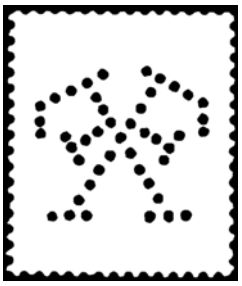
Falkner used three perfin dies between 1895 and 1925. The first of these dies F1406.01m consisted of fancy letters FF set in a shield. This design was simplified maybe because the shield design was resulting in broken pins and F1405.02m was introduced around 1904.

An even simpler die F1405.02 was introduced in 1912. All three perfin dies were based on the Trade Mark of the company, which consisted of the two crossed "F's" surmounted by an eagle and motto. The original intricate die of 1895 may in fact be trying to represent the eagle rather than the "F's" – I leave it to your imagination. From the directories we know that the firm went out of business between 1914 and 1936. As the perfins seem to cease around 1925 this probably marks the end of the company operation.

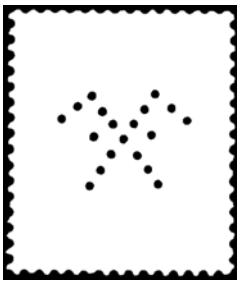
Trade Mark

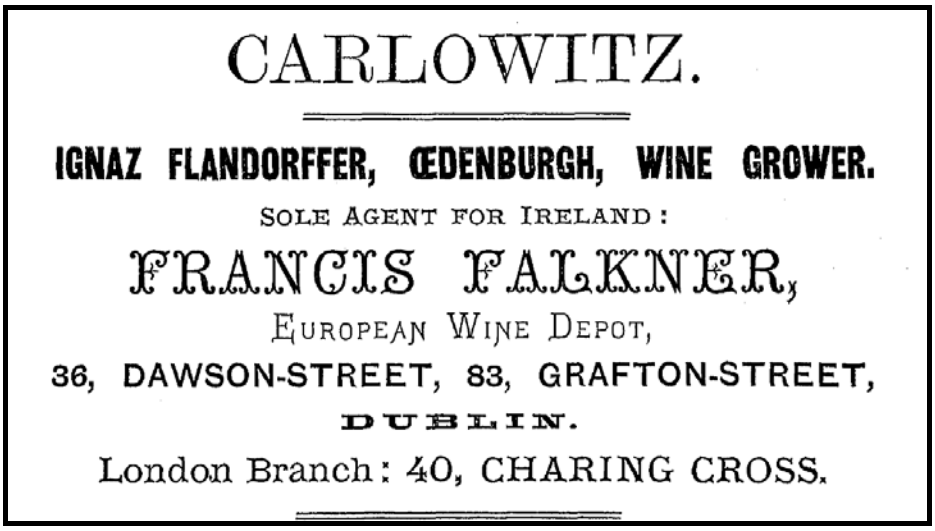


F1406.01m



F1405.01m



F1405.02m

Die	In Use	Issues
F1406.01m	1895 – 1904	B 1d (16 dots), E ½d gn, F ½d bl-gn, 1d
F1405.01m	1904 – 1912	F ½d (ye-gn), 1d H ½d, 1d
F1405.02m	1912 – 1925	H 1d, I(RC) ½d, 1d 1922 Overprint – 2d (T2) Also known on Eire definitives.